Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A business process feature for providing user authentication in an information appliance network, comprising:

(a) providing user authentication information to an authentication resource, said user authentication information accessible by providers of resources via the information appliance network;

(b) providing resource provider authentication information to an authentication resource, said resource provider information accessible by resources users via the information appliance network; and

(c) requesting authentication of at least one of a provider resource and a user resource request such that authentication information is automatically exchanged between said provider resource and said resource request before resource sharing occurs between information appliances connected to said information appliance network.

2. The user authentication for an information appliance network of claim 1 wherein said user authentication information is contained in a program object.

3. The user authentication for an information appliance network of claim 2, wherein said program object includes a dynamic base object.

4. The user authentication for an information appliance network of claim 3, wherein the dynamic base object includes a user authentication interface dynamic base object and a user authentication implementation dynamic base object.

5. The user authentication for an information appliance network of claim 4, wherein the user authentication interface dynamic base object resides on at least one of the

provider resource and the user resource and the user authentication implementation dynamic base object resides on the authentication resource.

6. The user authentication for an information appliance network of claim 1, wherein user resource information is capable of being provided without indicating identity of a user.

7. A method for managing the interaction between a plurality of information appliances and a plurality of appliance services, said information appliances being removably connected to said appliance services through a network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an appliance service request from an information appliance having an appliance type and an appliance identifier;

testing said request to determine whether said information appliance is registered;

testing said request to determine whether said appliance identifier is authorized to receive a service from a requested appliance service; and

authorizing services for said information appliance from said requested appliance service.

8. The method as described in claim 7, further comprising the step of collecting transaction information describing the services provided to said information appliance by said appliance service.

9. The method as described in claim 7, wherein said authorization information is contained in a program object.

10. The method as described in claim 9, wherein said program object includes a dynamic base object.

11. The method as described in claim 10, wherein said dynamic base object includes an authorization interface dynamic base object and an authorization implementation dynamic base object.

12. The method as described in claim 11, wherein said authorization interface dynamic base object resides on at least one of a provider resource and a user resource and said user authentication implementation dynamic base object resides on an authentication

resource.

13. A method for managing the interaction between a plurality of information appliances and a plurality of appliance services, said information appliances being removably connected to said appliance services through a network, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting an authentication interface dynamic base object to a content provider information appliance from a user information appliance;

receiving the authentication interface dynamic base object by the content provider information appliance; and

verifying the authentication interface dynamic base object through a central authenticator, wherein the authentication interface dynamic base object passes verification to an authentication implementation dynamic base object, the authentication implementation dynamic base object including user authentication information.

14. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the authentication implementation dynamic base object includes user authentication information previously inputted by a user.

15. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the authentication interface dynamic base object includes a transaction dynamic base object.

16. The method as described in claim 15, wherein the transaction dynamic base object is capable of being utilized to at least one of provide or derive from a user's account financial data, the user's account residing on the central authenticator.

17. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the authentication interface dynamic base object includes a registration dynamic base object, the registration dynamic base object capable of being utilized to provide registration information from a user's account residing on the central authenticator.

18. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the authentication implementation dynamic base object provides data to enable access by a user to the content provider without indicating to the content provider identity of the user.

19. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the central authenticator enables dynamic support of a plurality of payment methods.

20. The method as described in claim 13, wherein the authentication interface dynamic base object is encrypted.